

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, and 4-24 are in the application, of which claims 1, 14, and 21 are in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 8-13 are amended. Claims 16-24 are added. Claim 3 is canceled.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected. Claims 3-13 are objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 14 and 15 have been allowed. Applicants respond to the rejections and objections as follows.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 3 and should therefore be allowable. Claims 2 and 8-13 have been amended to have a consistent preamble. Claim 4 has been amended to be dependent on claim 1 instead of canceled claim 3. Claims 2 and 4-13 depend directly or indirectly from prospectively allowable claim 1 and should therefore be allowable.

Claims 16-20 recite subject matter from dependent claims 6-13 and depend on allowable claims 14 or 15 and should therefore be allowable.

Claim 21 is objected to claim 8 that is rewritten in independent form including the limitations of original claim 1 and should be allowable.

Claims 22-24 recite subject matter from dependent claims 6-13 and depend on prospectively allowable claim 21 and should be allowable.

The specification and FIG. 8 have been amended to fix a reference numeral so that it is consistent with the specification and other drawings.

Formal drawings are attached in the event that they might be required.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

Respectfully submitted,

George M. Carman and Patrick S. Freeman

By 

Michael L. Levine

Registration No. 33,947

STOEL RIVES LLP
900 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 2600
Portland, OR 97204-1268
Telephone: (503) 224-3380
Facsimile: (503) 220-2480



6/6

FIG. 7A

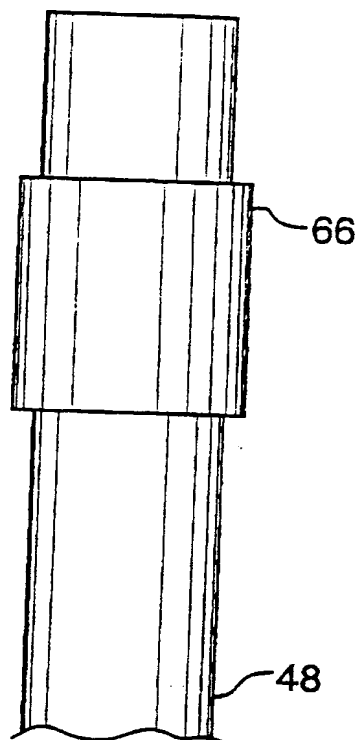


FIG. 7B

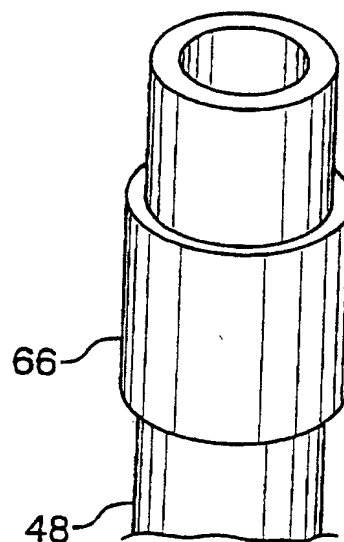


FIG. 8

